

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein the consisting of an amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2;;
- (b) an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;
- (c) an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and
- (d) a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.

2 (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein the comprising an amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2;;
- (b) an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;
- (c) an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and
- (d) a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.

3. (currently amended) An isolated antibody that selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2.

4-14. (canceled)

15. (new) An isolated antibody that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

16. (new) The antibody of claim 3, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

17. (new) The antibody of claim 15, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

18. (new) The antibody of claim 3, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

19. (new) The antibody of claim 15, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

20. (new) The antibody of claim 16, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

21. (new) The antibody of claim 17, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

22. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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23. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
24. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
25. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
26. (new) An isolated antibody fragment that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the antibody fragment comprises a fragment selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) an Fab fragment;
  - b) an F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment; and
  - c) an Fv fragment.
27. (new) An isolated antibody fragment that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the antibody fragment comprises a fragment selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) an Fab fragment;
  - b) an F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment; and
  - c) an Fv fragment.
28. (new) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
29. (new) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.